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TAGS: [PINR](#) [PINS](#) [PROP](#) [MNUC](#) [KN](#) [KS](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: CHOSEN SOREN ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN FOLLOWING
U.S.-DPRK NUCLEAR TALKS

¶1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

¶2. SUMMARY: NORTH KOREA HAS INSTRUCTED KOREANS WHO RESIDE IN JAPAN BUT ARE VISITING NORTH KOREA TO RETURN TO JAPAN AND MAY NOT LET THEM VISIT NORTH KOREA UNTIL THE END OF JULY. KOREANS LIVING ABROAD HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION. CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS IN JAPAN BELIEVE THAT THE DPRK THINKS INCREASED INDOCTRINATION IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO COUNTER POSSIBLE CORRUPTING EFFECTS OF CONTACTS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, WHICH NORTH KOREA ALSO SEEMS TO BE SUPPORTING. INCREASED INDOCTRINATION MAY ALSO BE NECESSARY IF, AS SOME DPRK BUREAUCRATS ADVISE, NORTH KOREA ADOPTS CERTAIN WESTERN BUSINESS PRACTICES. CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT THE U.S.-DPRK TALKS DID NOT SOLVE IMPORTANT ISSUES (IAEA INSPECTIONS). THEY WORRY THAT THE NORTH MAY BLOCK FURTHER COMPROMISE BY INSISTING ON "EQUAL" TREATMENT (SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO INSPECT U.S. BASES). NORTH KOREA IS ALSO USING A DIFFERENT TRANSLATION OF THE POST-MEETING STATEMENT IN ORDER, APPARENTLY, TO CONVINCE ITS PUBLIC THAT THE U.S. HAS AGREED TO RESPECT THE KIM IL SUNG SYSTEM AND NOT JUST DPRK SOVEREIGNTY. PYONGYANG HAS ALSO ASKED CHOSEN SOREN TO STUDY WAYS OF ACQUIRING INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. SOME CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT THIS MAY INDICATE NORTH KOREA'S INTENTION TO FOREGO THE MILITARY ASPECT OF ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM.
END SUMMARY

¶3. HAJIME IZUMI (PROTECT STRICTLY), ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHIZUOKA, ON JUNE 18 DISCUSSED CHOSEN SOREN'S RECENT ACTIVITIES. (IZUMI IS A LONG-TIME EMBASSY CONTACT WITH GOOD ACCESS TO THE CHOSEN SOREN ORGANIZATION.)

KOREANS RESIDING IN JAPAN TOLD TO RETURN

¶4. IZUMI MET WITH CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS ON JUNE 14. THEY TOLD HIM THAT THE DPRK ORDERED KOREANS WHO WERE IN NORTH KOREA AT THE TIME BUT WHO PERMANENTLY RESIDE IN JAPAN, TO RETURN TO JAPAN, BEGINNING ON JUNE 15. KOREANS IN JAPAN WERE INFORMED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA UNTIL THE END OF JULY. SOME HIGH-RANKING CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS, HOWEVER, WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN NORTH KOREA.

¶5. SOME KOREAN RESIDENTS OF JAPAN RETURNED TO JAPAN ON JUNE 10 ON A SHIP THAT ARRIVED IN NIIGATA. SOME OF THEM, ALONG WITH CHOSEN SOREN'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP, ATTENDED A SPECIAL CHOSEN SOREN MEETING IN TOKYO ON JUNE 11. IZUMI SAID THAT THE MEETING WAS PRIVATE AND CLOSED. THOSE RETURNING FROM NORTH KOREA SAID THAT THE DPRK HAD INSTRUCTED CHOSEN SOREN TO INCREASE IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION WITHIN THE KOREAN COMMUNITY IN JAPAN.

¶16. THIS INSTRUCTION, CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS NOTED, WAS IN LINE WITH A STATEMENT KIM JONG IL MADE ON APRIL 27 IN A PRIVATE SPEECH TO SENIOR CADRES IN WHICH HE SAID THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN IDEOLOGICAL TEACHING IN ORDER TO RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF "ORDINARY" KOREANS AND OF KOREANS LIVING OVERSEAS.

¶17. CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS FOUND THAT THE NEW DIRECTIVE AND THE APRIL 27 KIM JONG IL STATEMENT SEEMED TO CONTRADICT A KJI STATEMENT OF MARCH 1991, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT KOREANS LIVING ABROAD FACE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE ALLOWED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN ADJUSTING TO THEIR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY ALSO RECALLED AN AUGUST 15, 1992 STATEMENT BY KIM IL SUNG (ANOTHER PRIVATE SPEECH) IN WHICH THE GREAT LEADER SAID THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD ADOPT A MORE OPEN POLICY TOWARD THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SUPPOSEDLY USING THE KOREAN EXPRESSION "KAEBANG," WHICH MEANS "OPEN DOOR." (IZUMI COMMENTED THAT THIS MAY BE THE ONLY TIME KIM IL SUNG HAS USED THIS EXPRESSION IN SUCH A CONTEXT.)

¶18. CHOSEN SOREN, IZUMI RELATED, MANAGED TO RECONCILE THE NEW DIRECTIVE ON INCREASED IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION WITH THE PREVIOUS APPARENT POLICY OF ENCOURAGING SOME OPENNESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF OVERSEAS KOREANS. CHOSEN SOREN CONCLUDED THAT THE DPRK LEADERSHIP STILL FAVORED OPENNESS BUT THAT, IN ORDER TO WARD OFF THE CORRUPTING EFFECTS OF CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD, IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION WOULD ALSO HAVE TO INCREASE.

¶19. IN IZUMI'S VIEW, THE DPRK CONSIDERS INCREASED INDOCTRINATION AS A WAY TO STRENGTHEN LOYALTY TO AND BELIEF IN THE DPRK SYSTEM AND ALSO AS A MEANS OF "PROTECTING" INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO CORRUPTING OUTSIDE INFLUENCES.

IN PYONGYANG . . .

¶10. IZUMI SAID THAT ANOTHER REASON FOR THE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING IS THAT, IN NORTH KOREA, SOME BUREAUCRATS REPORTEDLY SUPPORT NORTH KOREA'S ADOPTING WESTERN BUSINESS PRACTICES IN ORDER TO MAKE NORTH KOREA MORE ATTRACTIVE TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS. IZUMI SAID THAT, IN PARTICULAR, SOME BUREAUCRATS ARE PUSHING FOR NORTH KOREA TO ACCEPT WESTERN NOTIONS OF CONTRACT LAW. HOWEVER, IDEOLOGUES ARGUE THAT ACCEPTING SUCH PRACTICES WOULD THREATEN THE PURITY OF NORTH KOREA'S SYSTEM. THEY THEREFORE OPPOSE THE BUREAUCRATS' SUGGESTION. CHOSEN SOREN BELIEVES THAT ONE WAY TO REFORM BUSINESS PRACTICES AND ALSO MAINTAIN PURITY IS TO INCREASE INDOCTRINATION SO THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CORRUPTION CAN BE MINIMIZED. (OR SO THE THINKING GOES.)

NORTH KOREANS IN JAPAN

¶11. IZUMI SAID THAT THE SYSTEM OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS RUN BY CHOSEN SOREN IS RELATIVELY WELL-ORGANIZED. THERE ARE ABOUT 20 SUCH PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN JAPAN AS WELL AS ONE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN THE TOKYO AREA CATERING TO NORTH KOREANS. IZUMI SAID THAT CHOSEN SOREN MAINTAINS A MUCH STRONGER PRIVATE SCHOOL SYSTEM THAN DO KOREANS SYMPATHETIC TO SOUTH KOREA. THUS, CHILDREN OF CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS PROBABLY RECEIVE MUCH STRONGER IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION THAN DO CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS ORIENTED TOWARDS THE ROK.

U.S.-DPRK NUCLEAR TALKS

¶12. IZUMI SAID THAT NORTH KOREA USES A TRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE RECENT NEW YORK TALKS THAT DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION. (IZUMI WAS AWARE THAT THE LATTER IS CONSIDERED THE "OFFICIAL" VERSION.) CHOSEN SOREN, EXPOSED TO THE ENGLISH AND JAPANESE VERSIONS, AS WELL AS THE DPRK VERSION, DOES NOT CONSIDER THE TALKS TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS FOR THE NORTH. CHOSEN SOREN

MEMBERS REALIZE THAT THE IAEA INSPECTION ISSUE IS UNRESOLVED. THEY BELIEVE IT HIGHLY POSSIBLE THAT NORTH KOREA WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO SUBMIT TO IAEA INSPECTIONS.

¶13. CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS THINK THAT NORTH KOREA WILL REFER TO THOSE TERMS, IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATEMENT, THAT CALL FOR "UNPREJUDICED, IMPARTIAL, AND EQUAL" TREATMENT. THEY WORRY THAT THE DPRK WILL REFER TO THESE TERMS AND DEMAND "EQUAL" TREATMENT (E.G., THE RIGHT TO INSPECT U.S. BASES) AND THEREBY MAKE COMPROMISE DIFFICULT. IZUMI SAID THAT CHOSEN SOREN SEEMS TO WANT TO RESOLVE REMAINING NUCLEAR ISSUES SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

¶14. IZUMI SAID THAT THE NORTH KOREAN VERSION OF THE STATEMENT DOES NOT CORRECTLY TRANSLATE "SOVEREIGNTY" ("SHUKEN" IN THE JAPANESE PRONUNCIATION OF THE SAME CHINESE CHARACTERS USED ALSO IN KOREAN). INSTEAD, THE DPRK VERSION USES THE EXPRESSION "JISHUKEN," WHICH HAS A MEANING CLOSER TO THE ENGLISH WORD "INDEPENDENCE." IZUMI SAID THAT, IN KOREAN, "JISHUKEN" CAN ALSO MEAN "NATIONAL SYSTEM" OR "INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SYSTEM." THE USE OF THIS TERM, IZUMI SAID, INDICATES THAT NORTH KOREA IS TRYING TO TELL ITS PEOPLE THAT THE U.S. HAS AGREED TO RESPECT THE DPRK'S "INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SYSTEM" (I.E., THE KIM IL SUNG REGIME) RATHER THAN SIMPLY ITS SOVEREIGNTY.

¶15. IZUMI ALSO NOTED THAT AT THE POST-MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE, THE DPRK REP REFERRED TO "SHUKEN," "JISHUKEN," AND EACH COUNTRY'S "DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS" AS MATTERS ON WHICH THE U.S. AND DPRK REACHED AGREEMENT. IZUMI SAID THAT THIS ALSO SHOWED THAT NORTH KOREA WAS TRYING TO USE THE MEETING TO SHOW THE NORTH KOREAN PUBLIC THAT THE U.S. HAS AGREED TO RESPECT THE KIM IL SUNG SYSTEM.

NON-MILITARY NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY

¶16. IZUMI SAID THAT PYONGYANG ALSO INSTRUCTED CHOSEN SOREN TO STUDY WAYS OF COLLECTING MATERIAL (OF WHATEVER ORIGIN) CONCERNING THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. PYONGYANG DID NOT, HOWEVER, EXPLAIN THE REASON FOR THIS INSTRUCTION. IZUMI SAID THAT SOME CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT NORTH KOREA MAY WANT TO GIVE UP THE MILITARY ASPECT OF ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND CONVERT TO PURELY CIVILIAN APPLICATIONS. (IZUMI SAID THAT CHOSEN SOREN SUPPORTED THIS IDEA, IF THIS IS A CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF THE DPRK'S INTENTIONS.) CHOSEN SOREN MEMBERS RECALLED THAT, FOLLOWING THE FIRST IAEA INSPECTIONS IN JUNE 1992, THE DPRK'S REP IN GENEVA SAID THAT, IF THE WEST WERE TO HELP NORTH KOREA DEVELOP A LIGHT WATER REACTOR SYSTEM, THE NORTH MIGHT STOP ITS REPROCESSING PROGRAM.

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